

# THEATRE AND DANCE

The Theatre and Dance Program, an interdisciplinary liberal arts program, offers instruction in how to acquire the tools and knowledge to fully appreciate the value of these performance art forms. Students strengthen their ability to apply critical thinking and discussion to the creation and understanding of theatre and dance, as well as the understanding of other peoples and cultures. The curriculum is supplemented as students create live performances and original productions that stimulate and involve the university community, as well as the community beyond the campus. Through creative endeavor and scholarly research, the program also develops the interests and talents of students seeking careers or advanced study in theatre and dance.

## UNDERGRADUATE

### Bachelor's programs

- Bachelor of Arts with a major in theatre (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/theatre-dance/ba-theatre/>)
- Bachelor of Arts with a major in dance (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/theatre-dance/ba-dance/>)

### Minors

- Minor in theatre (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/theatre-dance/minor-theatre/>)
- Minor in dance (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/theatre-dance/minor-dance/>)

## GRADUATE

### Master's programs

- Master of Fine Arts in the field of dance (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/theatre-dance/mfa-dance/>)
- Master of Fine Arts in the field of production design (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/theatre-dance/mfa-production-design/>)

## FACULTY

Professors: D.T.S. Burgess, C.F. Gudenius, M.R. Withers

Associate Professors: M.A. Buckley, S. Johannesdottir, J.I. Kanter, M.R. Wilson

Assistant Professors: J. Traub, T.W. Wetenhall

Adjunct Professors: T. Beckman, A.C. Stokes

## COURSES

Explanation of Course Numbers

- Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses

- Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that also may be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work assigned
- Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master's, doctoral, and professional-level students
- The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

Note: Courses in the 1000s series are primarily for nonmajors.

Departmental prerequisite: Prerequisite to all graduate TRDA courses: M.F.A. candidacy and permission of instructor.

### **TRDA 1021W. The Artist-Activist. 3 Credits.**

The modern and contemporary history of work by seminal artists who challenge political and societal structures and advocate for social change. Restricted to students enrolled in the women's leadership program. Prerequisites: TRDA 1020 or CTAD 1020. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement.

### **TRDA 1025. Understanding the Theatre. 3 Credits.**

The art of the theatre; its literature, history, aesthetics, and mechanics. Contributions of the playwright, actor, director, and designer. Attendance at assigned theatrical performances.

### **TRDA 1035. Theatre Production. 3 Credits.**

Understanding of the basic elements of theatrical production and the collaborative artist/artisan process through discussion, observation, and practical application. Same As: CTAD 1035.

### **TRDA 1099. Variable Topics. 1-36 Credits.**

### **TRDA 1151. Beginning/Intermediate Ballet. 1 Credit.**

Introduction to modern dance technique inclusive of basic concepts of dynamic alignment, stretch, strength, improvisation and musicality. Laboratory fee.

### **TRDA 1152. Beginning Modern/Postmodern Dance. 1 Credit.**

Introduction to modern dance technique inclusive of basic concepts of dynamic alignment, stretch, strength, improvisation and musicality. Laboratory fee.

### **TRDA 1153. Beginning/Intermediate Modern/Postmodern Dance. 1 Credit.**

Introduction to modern dance technique inclusive of basic concepts of dynamic alignment, stretch, strength, improvisation and musicality. Laboratory fee.

### **TRDA 1171. Intermediate Modern/Postmodern Dance II. 2-3 Credits.**

Continuation of TRDA 1170. Recommended for students with previous dance experience in jazz, ballet, hip hop, modern, or other styles. May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee. Prerequisites: TRDA 1170 or permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 1240. Performance Theory. 3 Credits.**

Examination of the ways in which the practices and heuristics of performance have been used to understand a wide range of cultural activities; expansion of the notion of aesthetic performance proper to include sources, subjects, and forms historically considered non-dramatic; and underlying questions concerning what performance is, what it does, and what value it holds.

**TRDA 1330. Basics of Production Design. 3 Credits.**

Basic elements of production design and execution explored through discussion, observation, and practical application. Same As: CTAD 1330.

**TRDA 2160. Intermediate Ballet. 2-3 Credits.**

Training in movements and steps within the intermediate level ballet lexicon, emphasizing technical skills, stamina, mastery of longer dance sequences, presentation, musicality, and artistry. Permission of the instructor required prior to enrollment. May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee. Recommended background: mastery of low intermediate level ballet steps and vocabulary, ability to perform short combinations of dance steps, and competence in basic elements of ballet technique.

**TRDA 2172. Intermediate/Advanced Modern/Postmodern Dance I. 2-3 Credits.**

May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee. Prerequisites: TRDA 1171 or permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 2173. Intermediate/Advanced Modern/Postmodern Dance II. 2-3 Credits.**

Continuation of TRDA 2172. May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee. Prerequisites: TRDA 2172 or permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 2189. World Dance. 3 Credits.****TRDA 2191W. Dance History. 3 Credits.**

The history of Western theatrical dance from the late eighteenth century to the present. The major choreographers and their dance works through readings, lectures, video, and discussion. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement.

**TRDA 2192. Repertory/Performance. 1,2 Credit.**

Participation in the processes of learning and performing dance repertory or new dance works. Audition required. Laboratory required. May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee.

**TRDA 2193. Dance Styles I. 1-12 Credits.**

Forms of theatrical dance other than ballet or modern, including African dance, Angola Capoeira, music theatre, Spanish dance, world dance, Middle Eastern dance, and others. May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs. Laboratory fee.

**TRDA 2194. Dance Styles II. 1-12 Credits.**

Continuation of TRDA 2193. Forms of theatrical dance other than ballet or modern, including African dance, Angola Capoeira, music theatre, Spanish dance, world dance, Middle Eastern dance, and others. May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs. Laboratory fee.

**TRDA 2195. Global Dance History. 3 Credits.**

The role of dance globally in relation to socio-cultural and artistic histories. Importance of certain artists and dance forms contextualized by major world events as seen through the geography of immigration. Perspectives from the Americas, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

**TRDA 2215. Intermediate Acting. 3 Credits.**

Students continue to develop acting techniques introduced in TRDA 1214 through scripted scene work. Students learn to make choices through text exploration, use various acting techniques to create characters and develop clear character relationships, and stage completed scenes. Prerequisite: TRDA 1214.

**TRDA 2240. Play Analysis. 3 Credits.**

Traditional and nontraditional (Aristotelian and non-Aristotelian) approaches to the analysis of dramatic literature; literary and theatrical techniques used by playwrights. Same as ENGL 2240.

**TRDA 3099. Variable Topics. 1-12 Credits.****TRDA 3131W. Theatre of Social Change. 3 Credits.**

Focuses on theatre of social change as practiced in the second half of the twentieth century and in the early twenty-first century; exploring additional case studies from South Africa, Europe, and the United States. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement.

**TRDA 3174. Advanced Modern/Postmodern Dance I. 2-3 Credits.**

May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee. Prerequisites: TRDA 2173 or permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 3175. Advanced Modern/Postmodern Dance II. 2-3 Credits.**

Continuation of TRDA 3174. May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee. Prerequisites: TRDA 3174 or permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 3222. Topics in Advanced Acting. 3 Credits.**

Topics vary by semester. May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs. Consult the Schedule of Classes for more details. Prerequisites: CTAD 1214 or TRDA 1214; or CTAD 1215 or TRDA 1215.

**TRDA 3240. Introduction to Dramaturgy. 3 Credits.**

Fundamentals of classical and contemporary dramaturgical practice, including analyzing plays, doing research, supporting directors and actors in rehearsal, writing program notes, and leading post-show discussions. Same as ENGL 3240.

**TRDA 3245. History of the Theatre I. 3 Credits.**

A dramaturg's approach to case studies of theatre in historical context. Ancient Greece through the seventeenth century.

**TRDA 3245W. History of the Theatre I. 3 Credits.**

A dramaturg's approach to case studies of theatre in historical context. Ancient Greece through the seventeenth century. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement.

**TRDA 3246. History of the Theatre II. 3 Credits.**

Continuation of TRDA 3245. A dramaturg's approach to case studies of theatre in historical context. The eighteenth century through the present.

**TRDA 3246W. History of the Theatre II. 3 Credits.**

Continuation of TRDA 3245. A dramaturg's approach to case studies of theatre in historical context. The eighteenth century through the present. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement.

**TRDA 3250. Intermediate Dramatic Writing. 3 Credits.**

A workshop developing scripts for both theatre and film. Same as ENGL 3250. Prerequisite: ENGL 2250 or equivalent. May be repeated for credit with departmental approval.

**TRDA 3333. Stage Management. 3 Credits.**

The role and function of the stage manager in theatrical production. The basic skills needed to begin work in stage management. Emphasis on organization, documentation, and dissemination of information. Prerequisite: TRDA 1330. Laboratory fee.

**TRDA 3334. Introduction to Audio Design. 3 Credits.**

The basic elements of audio design and production through discussion, observation, and practical application. Same As: CTAD 3334, TRDA 3334.

**TRDA 3336. Introduction to Costuming. 3 Credits.**

History of fashion in Western civilization from ancient Greece to the twentieth century. Fundamental study of costume construction through specific projects. Costume construction. Laboratory fee. Prerequisite: TRDA 1330.

**TRDA 3710W. Contemporary Drama. 3 Credits.**

Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement.

**TRDA 4184. Choreography and Performance. 1-3 Credits.**

Create a dance or a performance work of individual design, including casting, rehearsal procedures, staging aspects, and public presentation. Prerequisite: TRDA 3182; recommended: TRDA 1330, TRDA 2185. May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee.

**TRDA 4338. Scene Painting. 3 Credits.**

The techniques and materials used in creating character in the various elements of set design. Methods include set preparation, coating, mixing, palette preparation, spraying, transfer, texturing, finishing, and wallpapering. Prerequisite: TRDA 1330. Laboratory fee.

**TRDA 4595. Selected Topics. 1-3 Credits.**

Topics of current interest in theatre or dance. Topics (and course fee, when charged) announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs.

**TRDA 4595W. Selected Topics. 1-3 Credits.**

Topics of current interest in theatre or dance. Topics (and course fee, when charged) announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement. Laboratory fee.

**TRDA 4596. Independent Study. 1-6 Credits.**

Independent research and special projects. Open to qualified juniors or seniors majoring or minoring in theatre or dance. Before students are permitted to register for TRDA 4596, they must submit a written proposal of the plan of study and obtain approval of the faculty member who is directing the study and the department chair.

**TRDA 4597. Senior Project. 3 Credits.**

A capstone project related to the student's particular concentration. The project may be in the form of a performance, theoretical or realized design for the theatre, directorial project, playscript, stage management experience, dramaturgical project, choreographic project, or other approved area. Restricted to TRDA majors with senior standing.

**TRDA 4598. Internship. 3-6 Credits.**

Open to qualified seniors majoring or minoring in theatre or dance. Work placements with not-for-profit and commercial theatre and dance organizations for an approved number of hours per week. May be taken for a maximum of 6 credits. Restricted to permission from the department.

**TRDA 4599. Honors Thesis. 3 Credits.**

Directed research and/or creative project. Open to qualified seniors by permission. Arrangements must be made with a sponsoring faculty member in the department and applications must be completed early in the second semester of the junior year.

**TRDA 6296. Research Project I. 4 Credits.**

Prerequisite: M.F.A. candidacy and permission of instructor.

**TRDA 6299. Research Project II. 5 Credits.**

Prerequisite: M.F.A. candidacy and permission of instructor.

**TRDA 6330. Materials and Methods. 3 Credits.**

Fundamentals of building materials, tools, fabrication techniques, and methodology used in modern stagecraft. Restricted to students in the MFA in production design program or with the permission of the instructor. Recommended background: basic knowledge of theatre production; TRDA1330.

**TRDA 6331. Intermediate Lighting Design. 3 Credits.**

Theory and execution of lighting design for theatre and dance. May be repeated for credit. Laboratory fee. Restricted to MFA candidates; permission of the instructor may be substituted.

**TRDA 6335. Intermediate Scene Design. 3 Credits.**

Development of advanced skills of scenic design, including script analysis, needs assessment, research techniques, conceptual design development, drawing and rendering techniques, preparation of construction documentation and fabrication management. Laboratory fee. Restricted to MFA candidates except by permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 6336. Intermediate Costume. 3 Credits.**

Basic techniques of costume design through specific projects. Various rendering techniques consistent with the historical period concerned. Laboratory fee. Restricted to MFA candidates; permission of the instructor may be substituted.

**TRDA 6338. Scene Painting. 3 Credits.**

Development the painting skills needed for the reproductive craft of theatrical painting. Restricted to MFA candidacy or permission of instructor.

**TRDA 6340. Period Styles. 3 Credits.**

A broad perspective of major European and American cultures through analysis of the interiors, furniture, textiles, fashion, and architecture of major civilizations and historical periods from Egypt to the present. Laboratory fee. Restricted to MFA candidates except by permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 6342. Pattern Making. 3 Credits.**

Pattern drafting and draping methods based on contemporary and historical clothing. Laboratory fee. Restricted to MFA candidacy or permission of instructor.

**TRDA 6344. Production Drafting. 3 Credits.**

Development of drafting skills for production. Ground plans and shop documents. Traditional hand drafting and computer assisted design. Laboratory fee. Restricted to MFA candidacy or permission of instructor.

**TRDA 6346. Advanced Studies in Design: Collaborative Studies. 3 Credits.**

Development of the skills needed to design and work within a collaborative or team-based environment through visual and verbal communication, script analysis, concept development, and research techniques. Laboratory fee. Restricted to MFA candidates or instructor's permission.

**TRDA 6348. Techniques in Design Presentation. 3 Credits.**

The various techniques used in costume and scenic design presentations, such as rendering with paint, pencil, ink, and electronic media. Restricted to MFA candidates; permission of instructor may be substituted.

**TRDA 6595. Selected Topics. 1-3 Credits.**

Topics vary by semester. May be repeated for credit provided topic differs. See the Schedule of Classes for more details. Restricted to MFA candidates; permission of instructor may be substituted.

**TRDA 6596. Independent Research in TRDA. 1-12 Credits.**

Prerequisite: M.F.A. candidacy and permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit.

**TRDA 6598. Internship. 1-12 Credits.**

Internships with theatre companies or arts organizations, including conference and/or seminar. May be taken for a total of 9 credits. Prerequisites: M.F.A. candidacy and permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 6997. Production Design Practicum. 1 Credit.**

Guided advanced individual laboratory training and experience; planning and executing complex production assignments with an emphasis on the management of subordinate crew. MFA production design candidates enroll in this course each semester of their program. Restricted to MFA production design students or permission of the instructor.

**TRDA 6998. Thesis Research. 3 Credits.**

Prerequisite: M.F.A. candidacy and permission of instructor.

**TRDA 6999. Thesis Research. 3 Credits.**

Prerequisite: M.F.A. candidacy and permission of instructor.